



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

NOV 18 2008

Fanuatele Dr. Toafa T. F. Vaiaga'e  
Director  
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box PPA  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Dear Dr. Vaiaga'e:

Thank you for submitting the American Samoa 2008 Integrated Report of water quality containing the Section 303(d) list of water quality limited water bodies. EPA has conducted a complete review of the submittal dated October 23, 2008 and clarifying information received on November 8, 2008. Based on this review, EPA has determined that American Samoa's 2008 list of water quality limited segments (WQLSs) still requiring TMDLs meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations. Therefore, EPA hereby approves American Samoa's 2008 Section 303(d) list. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and a summary of EPA's review of American Samoa's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosure.

The 2008 American Samoa 303(d) submittal includes impaired streams in 16 watershed segments and impaired ocean shoreline in 26 watershed segments. The listings were based on an assessment methodology described in American Samoa's submittal. Priority rankings for all listed waters are established as required by Section 303(d) and its implementing regulations. All 16 watershed segments with impaired streams are targeted as high priority for TMDL development, consistent with the targeting requirement of 40 CFR 130.7. American Samoa's first TMDLs were approved in 2007 for Pago Pago Harbor. We would like to work with your staff to ensure that additional TMDLs are developed and submitted for other priority impaired waters in the near future.

The public participation process sponsored by American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency included a solicitation of public comment through a newspaper advertisement. No comments were received from the public. American Samoa responded to EPA comments by making several changes in its amended Section 303(d) submittal.

Thank you for your efforts to develop an Integrated Report, including the Section 303(d) water body list for the 2008 listing cycle. If you have questions concerning EPA's decision, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or call Valentina Cabrera at (415) 972-3434.

Sincerely yours,

 18 Nov. 2008  
Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

Enclosure